



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

1416 9th Street, Ste. 1205

Sacramento, CA 95814

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>



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There has been a serious decline in certain fish species including the threatened Delta smelt and their associated food organisms, commonly referred to as the Pelagic Organism Decline (POD). As part of the POD studies, we have recently documented a serious and unexpected decline (approximately 90%) in young Delta smelt produced this season. As alarming as the reduced numbers are, the location of the young fish is an even greater concern. Specifically, they were found in the channels that are within the influence of south delta diversions, including the state and federal pumping plants. Based on the current information we have determined that Delta smelt are susceptible to serious harm resulting from further water diversion from the south delta.

In response to these observations, I have asked the Department of Water Resources to stop pumping at the State Water Project Delta facilities to protect threatened Delta smelt until they have moved out of the influence of the pumps or until water temperatures reach levels that preclude their existence in the south delta. We are also immediately stopping all non-essential scientific studies and monitoring that incidentally take Delta smelt.

Because of the extreme concern regarding the location and high likelihood for direct take of Delta smelt, I am asking you to voluntarily cease or substantially reduce your diversions from the south delta channels, as your operations allow. It is expected that the current conditions will persist for at least one week due to high tidal influences and moderate air temperatures.

The State Water Resources Control Board's executive staff has advised me that they will be following the issue closely and may recommend taking further action under the Board's continuing water rights authority, if voluntary actions are not employed. The Department of Fish and Game may also consider other actions in the future as necessary to fulfill our public trust responsibilities.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this urgent matter. If you have any questions in this regard, please contact Dr. Perry L. Herrgesell (916-698-0157); also, you may follow the condition of the Delta at www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/20mm/.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Ryan Broddrick".

L. Ryan Broddrick, Director
Department of Fish and Game